

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 - 11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A process for treating a disease in a mammalian subject comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of an intermediary metabolite or a reagent that increases the intracellular or extracellular or serum level of a mammalian intermediary metabolite in said subject, said increases in the intracellular or extracellular or serum level of a mammalian intermediary metabolite resulting in a change in the immune profile of subject, wherein said mammalian intermediary metabolite is a ~~glycolipid~~ monosaccharide ceramide, and wherein said disease is cancer, a viral infection, or an autoimmune disease.

13-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~15~~12, wherein said monosaccharide ceramide comprises a glucosyl ceramide or galatosyl ceramide.

17. (Original) The process of claim 12, wherein said administering step is carried out by means comprising intravenous means, intramuscular means, subcutaneous means, intra-peritoneal means or oral means.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 12, wherein said disease is a viral infection ~~comprises~~ comprising HBV, HCV or HIV.

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21. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 12, wherein said autoimmune disease comprises diabetes type I, diabetes type II, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, arteriosclerosis and ulcerative colitis.

22. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 12, wherein said reagent increases the rate of production of said glycolipid monosaccharide ceramide in said subject.

23. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 12, wherein said reagent decreases the rate of degradation or turnover of said glycolipid monosaccharide ceramide in said subject.

24. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 12, wherein said mammalian subject is a human.

Claims 25-63 (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 16, wherein said disease is the viral infection is an HCV infection.